

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 13769 120545Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 026836

R 111330Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7764
INFO DOD WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMSIXTFHLT
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

S E C R E T CAIRO 13769

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS
SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA NAVAL YARD FACILITIES

SUMMARY. FAHMY AND GAMASY CONFIRM CAPTAIN TAWFIQ'S
LETTER OF JUNE, 1975, INVITING US NAVY USE ALEXANDRIA
SHIPYARD REPAIR FACILITIES WAS SENT WITHOUT POLITICAL
CLEARANCE AND CONSIDER IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY
EMBARRASSING TO GOE TO PERMIT THIS SO SOON AFTER SOVIETS
WERE EXPELLED. FAHMY ASKS THAT FOR TIME BEING WE
"FREEZE" REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ACCORANCE WITH ORAL INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED DURING
MY RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, I RAISED WITH
FAHMY THE MATTER OF POSSIBLE US NAVAL USE OF THE
ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD. I TOLD HIM OF SHIPYARD
MASTER TAWFIQ'S LETTER OF JUNE 6, 1975, INVITING US
NAVAL VESSELS AS WELL AS MERCHANT VESSELS TO USE
THE SHIPYARD FOR REPAIR PURPOSES. THE US NAVY, I
POINTED OUT, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING USE OF
THE SHIPYARD FOR SHIP REPAIR PURPOSES IF AGREEABLE
TO GOE. IF GOE REACTION FAVORABLE, WE ARE PREPARED
TO CONSIDER MEANS TO ASSESS THE UTILITY OF THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 13769 120545Z

SHIPYARD FOR ITS PURPOSES. IN RAISING THIS MATTER,

HOWEVER, I WANTED HIM TO KNOW THAT WE WERE NOT SEEKING TO PRESS GOE. IT WAS SOLELY A MATTER FOR GOE TO DECIDE.

2. AS I SURMISED WAS THE CASE, TAWFIQ'S LETTER HAD NO RPT NO POLITICAL AUTHORIZATION. FAHMY HAD NEVER HEARD OF IT AND AT FIRST DOUBTED THAT ANY MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICIAL LIKE TAWFIQ WOULD ON HIS OWN SEND A LETTER DEALING WITH A SUBJECT WITH SUCH POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS. WHEN I SHOWED HIM A COPY OF THE LETTER, HE WAS INCREDULOUS. HOW COULD TAWFIQ HAVE WRITTEN SUCH A LETTER WITHOUT SEEKING POLITICAL GUIDANCE AND AT A TIME WHEN THE SOVIETS WERE STILL USING THE NAVAL YARD, HE KEPT ASKING.

3. I REMINDED FAHMY THAT WHEN VADM TURNER WAS HERE IN JUNE 1975. PRESIDENT SADAT HAD SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT GREATER NAVAL COOPERATION. FAHY CLAIMED THE PRESIDENT HAD MENTIONED THIS TO HIM, BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REFERENCE TO US NAVY USE OF THE ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS HAVE NOW BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE SHIPYARD, FAHMY ARGUED THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT GOE CAN SIMPLY PERMIT US NAVY TO USE IT. DOING SO WILL CAUSE POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT FOR GOE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES AND WITH SOVIETS. WHILE HE WANTED TO BE OF ALL POSSIBLE HELP TO US, AND POINTEDLY NOTED THAT HE HAD ARRANGED FOR REGULAR US NAVAL SHIP VISITS TO EGYPTIAN PORTS, FAHMY NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION. HE STATED VERY FRANKLY THAT HE COULD NOT RECOMMEND TO SADAT THAT THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED AT THIS TIME.

4. IN MY PRESENCE, HE THEN TELEPHONED GAMASY AND IN A FIFTEEN MINUTE CONVERSATION RECOUNTED OUR DISCUSSION. HE READ GAMASY THE LETTER OF CAPT TAWFIQ AND ASKED IF IT HAD AT ANY TIME BEEN CLEARED WITH MINWAR. GAMASY REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE AND ECHOED FAHMY'S VIEW THAT US NAVAL USE OF THE SHIPYARD IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXPULSION OF THE SOVIETS WOULD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 13769 120545Z

CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR EGYPT. HE, TOO, WOULD HAVE TO RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT FOR SUCH A SWITCH.

5. FAHMY THEN SUGGESTED THAT WE "FREEZE" FOR THE TIME BEING THE SUGGESTION OF US NAVAL USE OF THE ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD. HE UNDERTOOK LOOK FOR A SUITABLE OCCASION TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH SADAT IN LOW

KEY, BUT REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS GOE CANNOT ALLOW US NAVAL SHIPS TO USE ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD AT THIS TIME. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO USE THE NAVAL YARD WHENEVER GOE DEEMS IT FEASIBLE, BUT THAT WE WILL BE GUIDED BY GOE'S WISHES.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I GATHER ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH VADM ZIKRY, DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO US, AND ZIKRY UNDERTOOK INVESTIGATE, IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE FAHMY/GAMASY TELECON THAT NOTHING HAD YET BEEN SAID TO MINWAR ABOUT THAT CONVERSATION AND ZIKRY'S COMMITMENT. I THOUGHT IT BEST NOT RPT NOT TO TELL FAHMY ABOUT HOLLOWAY/ZIKRY TALK, SINCE OTHERWISE ZIKRY WOULD ALSO GET HIS KNUCKLES RAPPED.

I HAVE ASKED ALUSNA CAPTIAN BLOCK, WHO IS NOW IN ALEXANDRIA IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING VISIT OF USS CALIFORNIA, TO BRIEF ZIKRY ON ABOVE. I FEAR CAPTIAN TAWFIQ WILL GET REPRIMAND FOR SENDING SUCH A LETTER WITHOUT POLITICAL CLEARANCE. FAHMY SCATHINGLY MENTIONED THAT TAWFIQ COMES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, WHICH CAN HARDLY BE EXPECTED HAVE ANY POLITICAL SENSE. WOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT FAHMY'S REQUEST THAT WE "FREEZE" SUBJECT DOES NOT RPT NOT PRECLUDE US FROM EXPLORING IT AGAIN AT SOME FUTURE TIME. RECOMMEND THAT WE DROP MATTER FOR TIME BEING, BUT USE SUITABLE OCCASIONS REMIND SENIOR LEVEL EGYPTIANS OF OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN EXPLORING USE OF THE ALEXANDRIA NAVAL YARD WHENEVER GOE CONSIDERS IT POLITICALLY FEASIBLE TO PERMIT THIS. EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PORT FACILITIES, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO13769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760382-1033
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761063/aaaaccol.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALEXANDRIA NAVAL YARD FACILITIES SUMMARY. FAHMY AND GAMASY CONFIRM CAPTAIN TAWFIQ'S LETTER OF JUNE, 1975, INVITING US NAVY USE ALEXAND
TAGS: MARR, EWWT, US, EG, (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006